



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODEN MONEY COLLECTORS

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EDITOR: Ross Kingdon, 69 Dorchester Dr., Bramalea, Ontario, Canada, L6T 3E5.

### CAWMC SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL:

This yearly process of renewing our subscriptions is now upon us. I therefore encourage all of you to send off your CAWMC 2000 renewal subscription to our membership chairman, *Al Munro* in Calgary. Do it now while this reminder is fresh in your mind. *Enclosed is a membership renewal form* that can be used for this purpose. Why not also use this form to sign up a new member? I know Al will be happy to hear from you.

I wish to apply for or renew my membership in the Canadian Association of Wooden Money Collectors for the calendar year 2000

Dues are: Can. Resident- \$10.00 Canadian funds

U.S. Resident- \$10.00 U.S. funds

International Resident(outside Can. & U.S.)- \$20.00 Canadian funds

Youth(16 years of age and under)- \$5.00 Canadian funds

Name:.....

Address:.....

Mail this application along with cheque or money order to:

Mr. Al Munro

Box 2643 Stn. 'M' Calgary,

Alberta, Canada T2P 3C1

### HISTORY OF OUR "WOODEN MONEY" HOBBY:

In the next few newsletters, I will be publishing material, provided to me from various CAWMC members, which describes the *history and background* of 'wooden money'. Some of this material will take up considerable newsletter space, so will be spread over several newsletters. All of this material makes for very informative reading and provides us with an excellent background on the history of wooden money and thus our hobby of wooden money collecting.

The first article written by Wayne Dennis is found on *page four* of this newsletter. Wayne Dennis is the author of the 8th edition of the "*Guide Book of Wooden Money 1931 - 1994*". This catalogue of "*United States Official Wooden Money*" can be obtained from Wayne Dennis 1852 Golden Shadow Drive, Henderson NV U.S.A. 89105 - 8620 for \$18.00 U.S.

### CHRISTMAS WOOD ORDERS:

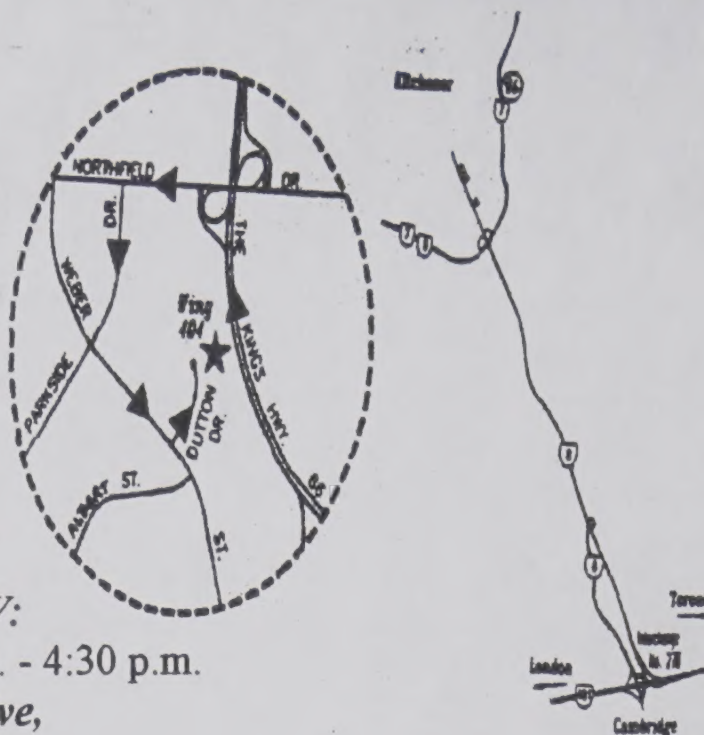
CAWMC member *Jerry Remick* has once again provided complete information, for ordering your personalized 1999 Christmas and Hanukkah woods, from the various wood manufacturers. This information is found on *pages five and six* of this newsletter. Get your orders in a.s.a.p. Once again, your editor would like to show all members Christmas woods in a future newsletter. *Please send the woods or a photo of them to me.* Thank you.



**NEW ADDRESSES:**

**Norm Belsten**  
86 Hamilton Drive  
Newmarket, Ont., Can.  
L3Y 3E8

**Alf Wrigley**  
#311 Scotia Landing N.W.  
Calgary, Alberta, Can.  
T3L 2K1

**WATERLOO COIN SOCIETY COIN SHOW:**

Saturday, November 20, 1999 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Wing 404, R.C.A.F. Ass'n., 510 Dutton Drive,  
**Waterloo.**

Map showing location here on the right.

**CAWMC OFFICERS**

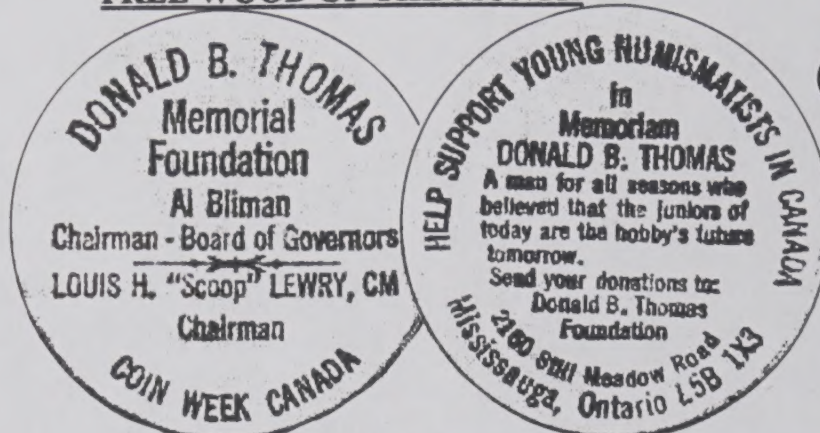
President: LOU VESH  
Vice President: EARL SALTERIO  
Secretary-Treasurer and Membership Chairman:  
AL MUNRO  
Past President and Chairman of the Board of  
Governors: PAT WHITE  
Elected Members of the Board of Governors:  
NORM BELSTEN, BOB BROWN,  
RUSSELL BROWN, WAYNE GILLCASH,  
DAVE GILLESPIE, DON ROBB.

**APPOINTED OFFICERS**

Editor: ROSS KINGDON  
Fund Raiser: LOU VESH  
Auction Coordinator: AL MUNRO

**DUES:** Membership dues in the Canadian Association  
of Wooden Money Collectors is:

Canadian Residents- \$10.00 Canadian funds  
United States Residents- \$10.00 U.S. funds  
International Members Rate (outside Can. & U.S.)-  
\$20.00 Canadian funds  
Youth (16 years of age and under)- \$5.00  
Dues paid to Mr. Al Munro Box 2643 Stn. 'M'  
Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2P 3C1

**FREE WOOD OF THE MONTH**

Our free wood this month is a large two inch in diameter wood sent to me by CAWMC member *Pat White* of Winnipeg. This 'Donald B. Thomas' memorial wood is listed in the Belsten listing under Mississauga, Ontario number 5904 - 02. It was issued in 1982 by Al Bliman and 'Scoop' Lewry. The listing indicates that one thousand woods were made. The wood is red on the Bliman/Lewry side and blue on the other. Thanks for the donation, Pat.



## BIRDS OF MY GARDEN.....by Lou Vesh



In a way, I did not choose this year's birds. They chose me. The killdeer and the phoebe were the only two birds whose nesting patterns I was able to follow closely this year.

The killdeer, as you probably know, does not build a nest. At least, not in the familiar fashion of twigs, grass and mud, as we know a bird's nest. Instead, it creates a small depression in a gravel surface and lays its eggs therein. In my case, the killdeer chose our driveway. Fortunately, it was at the edge where I could avoid driving over it, yet keep track of its progress.

"My" killdeers were a prolific pair. Their first brood was hatched by May 27! That's where the caution really began. The nest itself was no problem. Once I located the site it was easy to avoid driving or mowing the grass too near the nest. But these little featherless winged chicks were something else. They'd be running around the lawns and driveway helter skelter, and keeping track of them was a real challenge. While these killdeer "teens" were tearing around, "mama" killdeer was concentrating on another brood of 4 eggs. The eggs are always arranged in the nest with the narrow ends down. Keeping the larger ends up probably gives a greater surface to keep warm, or cool, depending on the weather. The study of these birds was most interesting. Their sly methods of changing "shifts" at the nest, their "broken wing" acts, their particular calls to each other. All these antics say something about the intelligence of the species.

The phoebe is a quiet bird. A pair decided to make their home on a shelf of the garage eaves which I had provided especially to encourage bird nesting. Unlike the killdeer, but more in line with most birds, the young stay in the nest for considerable time before taking flight. They are nurtured "at home" until their wings are strong and feathered, and when they finally fly the coop they seem to be as big as the parents.

The phoebe is quite tame and has a soft and gentle call. When I would stop to stare at the nest it seemed to know that I was a friend and would not fly off. Once the young could fly, the whole family seemed to disappear. Only their quiet calls could I hear emanating from some hidden perch beyond my vision.

ERRATUM, ERRATA: It wasn't until writing the above article that I realized the misspelling of the name "killdeer". I erroneously assumed the one "l" instead of two. When the error showed up I checked my bird book and then the nickels. My singular mistake had been multiplied 120 times! So now we have an error wood. Sorry 'bout that.





## WOODEN MONEY IS LEGAL

(A Brief History of Wooden Money)

The history of wooden money can be traced back to the Byzantine Empire, 395-1435 A.D. Several attempts were made during this period to use money made of wood; but it never achieved popularity. However, some was used as promissory notes and was destroyed when the debt was paid.

The tally stick, referred to as splintery wood, was used in England as late as the 19th century. The amount of money each represented was indicated by notches. The notches were cut according to definite rules. A thousand pounds was marked by a cut as thick as the palm of a hand, a hundred by the breadth of a thumb, and a score by the breadth of the little finger. A pound was recorded by a cut the breadth of a grain of ripe barley, a shilling still less and a penny by a single incision. The stick was then split through the incisions following the wood grain to the bottom; and a portion retained by each of the parties of the transaction. They were impossible to counterfeit.

The tally reached its highest point of development in England. It was used as late as the 19th century. Originally intended as a tally, it eventually developed into a token, a form of money to be handed from person to person. The tally could be used in the same manner as any negotiable instrument of the present time. Aboriginal Tribes still use this system today.

There was an issue of wooden money made of thin bamboo in Tibet during the 12th century. China had several issues of wooden (bamboo) money starting with the Chien Lung Dynasty (1735) and continued until about 1936. These pieces were used to make change for less than one cent. They were also used as gambling money.

The forerunner of wooden money in the United States was community or private issues of paper scrip. In the state of Washington, the first paper scrip was issued by the Puget Sound Co-Operative Colony founded by George Venable Smith in 1887 at Port Angeles, Washington. This colony had about 400 members which grew to about 2,000 members.

On December 5, 1931, the Citizens Bank of Tenino, Washington failed and the shortage of money in Tenino became acute. Don Major, publisher of the Independent contacted the Chamber of Commerce and proposed issuing scrip to meet the emergency. The idea was quickly adopted. Don Major had been printing novelty Christmas cards on rectangular pieces of slice wood furnished by Albert Balch of Seattle who had been promoting it for this purpose. (Slicewood was made by laminating a sheet of bond paper between two thin slices of spruce wood.) Albert Balch prevailed upon Don Major to print the scrip on slicewood instead of paper by claiming that wooden money would gain world-wide publicity. In the latter part of December, 1931. Mr. Major printed forty 25¢ pieces on slicewood. The idea caught on and with a fresh supply of slicewood on hand, denominations of 25¢, 50¢ and \$1.00 were printed in February of 1932. Nine issues followed ending in April, 1933. Each piece was signed by three responsible citizens in order of their age: Dr. F. W. Wichman being the oldest, signed first; followed by D. M. Major and

Dr. A. H. Meyer. It was agreed to issue the scrip to the depositors with a limitation of 25% of the money they had on deposit. This allowed the towns people to continue business among themselves as usual, which avoided almost certain disaster. Thus Don Major became the Father of Wooden Money in America.

The story of Tenino wooden money spread throughout the world and collectors flooded the Chamber of Commerce with thousands of requests and many paid premium for the scarce pieces. \$10,308.00 worth of wooden money was issued and only about \$40.00 worth was redeemed by the Chamber of Commerce. On April 7, 1932, wooden money was featured in the Congressional Record. In April of 1935 there became a shortage of 1/5¢ aluminum tax tokens and once again Tenino met the emergency by printing the tokens on scraps of slicewood left over from the wooden money.

Tenino's wooden money was used the same as regular U.S. currency to pay all kinds of debts, pay salaries or purchase anything you desired.

Blaine, Washington followed suit in 1933 when their bank failed. They printed the first round wooden money in denominations of 5¢, 10¢, 50¢, and \$1.00. Theirs was the first wooden nickels in the world. Blaine wooden money was used in lieu of regular currency; the same as Tenino wooden money. Several other Washington towns and cities came out with various types of wooden tokens to raise funds and promote special events. Some of the most unusual was the Olympia Oyster Money issued in 1933 to bring attention to the visit of Old Ironsides. It was a 25¢ piece. Other popular tokens were issued by South Bend and Hoquiam. Blaine did not have a redemption date on their wooden money so Congress soon frowned on wooden money, as such, and it was discontinued.

In 1964 the coin shortage became acute because of the hoarding of coins and the First National Bank of Monroe, Wisconsin issued wooden nickels which they offered to redeem at any time. This gave them illegal status and the remaining 450 of 20,000 was impounded. Token redeemable at one place of business are permissible. It is now illegal for anyone to make tokens intended to circulate or be used in lieu of lawful U.S. money.

Several enterprising manufacturers of novelties decided to make souvenir wooden nickels which are still being used today to raise funds by towns and cities, Chambers of Commerce, coin clubs, banks and private individuals.

Many ingenious sizes, shapes and materials are used. All fall in the category of wooden money and accepted as such, up to and including their redemption date.



## **PERSONALIZED CHRISTMAS AND HANUKKAH WOODS**

*by Jerry Remick*

The details, on personalized 1999 Christmas and Hanukkah woods, from four wood printers are given here. Contact should be made with any of the wood printers as soon as possible in order to obtain their brochure showing designs, colours, sizes and prices. Orders should be placed before the end of November.

Your personal reverse can include your municipality, 1999 and a short greeting or 'wooden nickel'. In addition, one of the wood printer's Christmas verses can be included on the reverse side of flat woods.

Round woods mailed to friends at Christmas time should be protected by a sturdy, thick piece of cardboard or part of a 'bubble' envelope else they may be broken by machines that process mail. Flat woods need less protection.

**CANADA WIDE WOODS:** General Delivery, Gadshill, Ont., Can. N0K 1J0, telephone (519) 271 - 3352 (Larry Walker) and (519) 273 - 1715 (Bill Cousins). Five obverse designs are offered for round woods and nine designs for flat Christmas woods. One Hanukkah design is available for round woods. All woods are pictured in their five page brochure. If the firm receives a good Christmas design, they will have a die made for it free of charge.

Round woods are available in 1.5 and 1.75 inch diameters. The design can be hot stamped in a variety of bright colours. This is the only company, for this year, to offer bright foil colours using the hot stamped process on Christmas woods. A different colour may be used on each side of an order of woods at no additional cost. One hundred woods in 1.5 inch size are \$60.00. One hundred woods in 1.75 inch size are \$65.00. One hundred flat Christmas woods (3.25 x 3.75 inches) in light brown cherry are \$75.00. Two different holiday verses plus a blank space below for two lines of your name etc. are available for these thick woods. You can compose your own text for your reverse side. A reverse die with your name etc. is \$20.00 additional but can be used on future orders of woods, as it is not dated. Canadians should add 7% gst and Ont. residents add 8% gst. Postage is extra.

**JOHN LAWRENCE:** 25 North Wayne Ave., West Haverstraw, New York 10993, telephone (914) 429 - 2802. Personalized holiday wood flats on 1/32 inch thick, balsa wood, in five different sizes, can be supplied. Three colours are used on both sides with the issuer choosing the colours. Fifty-eight obverse and eleven reverse holiday designs for Christmas and Hanukkah woods are shown in a six page brochure. Prices for a minimum order of 100 woods in U.S. funds are as follows: 2 x 2.25 inch flats (\$22.75); 2 x 3 inch flats (\$31.75); 2 x 4 inch flats (\$37.75); 3 x 4 inch flats (\$43.75); and 3 x 5.5 inch flats (\$63.75). Postage is \$3.75 extra per order.

*-continued on page six*



*John Lawrence Christmas Woods continued from page five*

There is no charge for your name and address or your own verse on the verse side.

Available also are long, flat wood sticks 3/5 inches wide by 6 inches long that resemble tongue depressors. Two lines of text on one side with a five cent symbol at each end, in two colours are available at 25 pieces for \$5.50 to 100 pieces for \$15.50 plus \$3.75 postage.

**JERRY LEDET:** Bayou Products Co., P.O. Box 1117, Thiboudous, Louisiana 70302, telephone (504) 447 - 8472. In his brochure are illustrated eight standard designs for 1.5 inch round Christmas woods and one for Hanukkah. Jerry offers one of his standard holiday designs for one side of a round wood and your personal data on the other with a maximum of eighty characters and spaces at the following rates, in U.S. dollars. 100 woods for \$24.00 plus \$2.50 shipping for U.S. residents and \$2.90 for Canadian residents; 250 woods for \$29.00 plus \$3.00 shipping for U.S. orders and \$5.50 for Canadian orders. There is no extra charge for the side with the senders name and other data. From a selection of six colours, the issuer may choose one colour for one side and a different colour for the other at no extra charge. All prices are U.S.

**OLD TIME WOODEN NICKEL CO.** Att'n Herb Hornung, P.O. Box 18362, San Antonio, Texas 78218 - 0362, telephone (210) 829 - 1291 and toll free (877) 464 - 2535. Nineteen obverse designs are offered in their brochure for 1.5 and 2.0 inch round Christmas and New Years woods and two for Hanukkah. One colour is allowed for both sides. A different colour for the second side is \$8.00 extra. Woods 1.5 inches are priced as follows: 100/\$30.00, 250/\$40.00, 500/\$55.00. Woods 2.0 inches are priced as follows: 100/\$60.00, 250/\$80.00, 500/\$95.00. There is no charge for the set-up of the sender's personal data for the reverse side. Shipping is \$7.50 for up to 1000 woods. Prices are in U.S. funds. Visa and mastercard accepted. This Company can make laser engraved wooden nickels.

**OTHER WOOD MAKERS:**

*Norm Belsten* (Downsview, Ontario) is unable to accept new orders for 1999 Christmas woods as he is in the process of moving residences.

*Universal Signs* (Fredericton, N.B.) no longer makes woods.

Communicate It Ink Co. Now *Ideas Unlimited* (San Antonio, Texas) with David Neisen as owner will be making woods as they did in 1998.